

December 21, 2015

Suzy Sonnier, Secretary Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services 627 North 4th Street Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Secretary Sonnier:

Per the attached letter, I have informed the USDA Food and Nutrition Service of my intention to extend the ABAWD waiver for Louisiana's participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Fiscal Year 2016. Since the current waiver is set to expire on December 31, 2015, I am requesting that the DCFS work with the USDA and my office to avoid any gap in benefits.

I believe that we should do everything possible to assist those that are able to return to gainful employment so that they will no longer be in need of the SNAP program. I intend to use this extension for 2016 to work with the DCFS and the legislature to develop programs that offer workforce training and assistance to those on SNAP benefits.

If you need any further information or assistance, please contact Matthew Block (<u>matthewblock@onwardlouisiana.com</u>) or Julie Baxter Payer (<u>juliepayer@onwardlouisiana.org</u>).

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards Governor-elect State of Louisiana